



February 20, 2025

Spring is here. We’re at the complex in Tempe, Arizona. And so is **Zach Eflin**.

Reporter: “Why are you acquiring a rental pitcher making \$18 million in 2025 when you’re in the early stages of a rebuild?”

Answer: “Because we’re buying a draft pick.”

No one ever said all Rebuilds need to adhere to the same set of rules. While sipping coffee at the Winter Meetings in December, Rays GM Erik Neander pitched me on a radical idea: “Arte loves to spend money.” I replied, “He sure as shit does. But I've been telling him every day that we’re not going to throw stupid money in free agency for quite awhile – at least until we get this ship turned in the right direction.” Neander made his hard sell. “Stu[Sternberg] is panicking because we just dropped a bag for Profar in free agency and we’re about to get hammered next year with team options and late-arb salaries. He wants me to move Eflin.”

“Eflin? He’s about to be a free agent. He won’t talk extension with you guys?”

“We’re worlds apart,” Neander replied. “Stu isn’t going to pay him fair value and Eflin knows it. Zach thinks he’s going to be in the same price range next season as Gallen and Cease, assuming they don’t re-sign with their clubs, and he wants a long-term deal.”

“Why don’t you just keep him through the end of next season and pick up a draft pick once he declines your qualifying offer?”, I asked.

“We could,” Neander said, “but Stu wants money freed up sooner rather than later. He’s spooked. We’re \$25 million above last year’s budget and ticket sales are way down because we sucked last year. It looks like we’re finally going to have a healthy rotation with Springs, Rasmussen, Baz, McClanahan, and Taj [Bradley] all ready to go for Spring.”

“I get the idea. I just don’t know if it makes sense for us given where we’re at in our plan. Who are you looking at in return?”

“Not your top guys. More the second or third tier. Think about it and get back to me.”

I did think about it. And then some thought about it even more. We re-engaged in January following the Taylor Ward deal and Neander indicated he wanted **Joswa Lugo**, our 8th-ranked guy (246th overall, per OSA), whom the prior regime signed as part of the J2 class in early 2024. Lugo’s first spin through the DSL as a 17-year-old didn’t go well (he posted the fourth-worst wRC+ of any qualified hitter) and looks even more raw than your average DSL prospect. He does fit the Rays’ mold as a left-sided infielder with solid power and a shaky hit tool.

With nearly \$24M available in the budget (and with all other expenses accounted for), I knew we could swing Eflin’s \$18 million. I also knew that Arte would be thrilled to bring in a “big name” pitcher, even if only for a year. The lone downside here (other than dealing away Lugo) is that if Eflin has a sub-standard year, he’s likely to accept our qualifying offer to try to rebuild his value before hitting the open market the following year. Of course, we could refuse to extend the QO, at which point we dealt away Lugo for a year of Eflin’s services on a team that wasn’t trying to compete right now anyway.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY			
Budget	18th	\$214,000,000	
Player Payroll	17th	\$142,343,400	
Total Money Available		\$23,791,600	
Money for Extensions		\$41,426,000	
Team Focus		Rebuilding	
Market Size			Very Big
Fan Loyalty			Average
Fan Interest			62
ATTENDANCE INFO			
Total Attendance (2024)	24th	1,647,260	
	2024	2025	Change
Ticket Price	\$44.59	\$44.59	-

(the pre-Eflin budget picture)

February 13, 2025: Acquired SP Zach Eflin from Tampa Bay for 3B Joswa Lugo and RP Luke Murphy

- While this move *seems* risky for us, it really isn’t. In fact, it’s a win-for-win for all involved. Arte only cut our budget by \$10M (down from \$224M to \$214M) despite my very clear position that we’re not going to compete in 2025. He’s addicted to spending. But instead of letting him blow money on overpriced and past-their-prime free agents, he’s now buying (hopefully) 200 above-average IP from Eflin and a high comp. Pick in the 2026 Draft.

ZACH EFLIN | #28

SP | Los Angeles Angels | "EF" | Throws: Right | Age 30 | 6' 6" - 215 lbs | Salary: \$18,000,000

YESTERDAY

TODAY

TOMORROW

FRI, FEB. 14

SAT, FEB. 15

No Game.

PROFILE

RATINGS

BATTING STATS

PITCHING STATS

FIELDING STATS

REAL LIFE STATS

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EDITOR

Ratings relative to: MLB

OSA Ratings

Head Scout

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BASEBALL CARDS

ACTIONS...

PERSONAL DETAILS

Age

30 years, 310 days

Date of Birth

April 8th , 1994

City of Birth

Chuluota, FL

Nationality

American

Position

Pitcher (Starter)

Bats / Throws

Right / Right

Team

Los Angeles Angels (MLB)

Salary

\$18,000,000

Signed through

2025 (free agent)

School

Paul J. Hagerty High School

Acquired

Trade with TB (02/12/2025)

Morale

Normal

Expectation

Starting rotation

Major Service

8 Years, 18 Days

BASIC PITCHING RATINGS

Stuff

45 / 45

Movement

50 / 50

Control

80 / 80

Fastball

50 / 50

Slider

45 / 45

Curveball

50 / 50

Changeup

45 / 45

Sinker

50 / 50

SUMMARY

Overall

65

Potential

65

Scouting Accuracy

Very High

OTHER PITCHING RATINGS

GB/FB Tendency

Neutral

Velocity

93-95 Mph

Arm Slot

Normal (3/4)

Pitcher Type

Normal

Projected Role in

MLB (MLB)

Current

Starter

Stamina

60

Hold Runners

50

POSITION RATINGS

Pitcher

50

BATTING RATINGS

Contact

30 / 30

Power

20 / 20

Eye

25 / 25

Sacrifice Bunt

50

PERSONALITY

Fishes in the offseason.

High: Financial Ambition

Other Moves in January & February

Miggy Ro is 35 years old and ain't what he once was, but the dude can still pick it at shortstop. His 4.6 ZR and 1.08 fielding efficiency at SS were each among the best in baseball, and his 2.4 WAR was a career-best (2.3 WAR in 2021). His market was surprisingly sparse when he plucked him out of free agency in mid-January with plans to make him a part-time player. **Zach Neto** has busted his ass this offseason to improve his defense at SS (-5.9 ZR and .908 EFF last season), but we could slide Neto to 2B some days and stick **Luis Rengifo** in an outfield corner. Rojas should get plenty of reps against lefties and a late-inning defensive replacement. I'm a fan of his fit within our roster construction.

January 19: Signed 2B Luis Rengifo to a 3-year, \$29.8M contract extension


I tried over and over to generate a worthwhile trade return for Rengifo but couldn't find what I wanted. Once a prospective deal with the Brewers fell apart in early January, we approached Rengifo with an extension offer that he initially turned down but quickly warmed to upon further consideration. The position player crop in this org is still perilously thin in upper minors, and there's no one imminently coming up who was a logical fit for Rengifo's spot. He'll be in Anaheim through at least 2027 and should be in the midst of his "prime" at age 28, though it feels like he's been around forever.


Contract Information		Contract Extension Information	
Contract Type	Major League Contract	Contract Type	Major League Contract
Promised Role	Starting Lineup	Expires	After 2028 Season
Expires	After 2025 Season	Signed prior to	2026 Season
Signed prior to	2025 Season	Total years when signed	3 Years
Total years when signed	1 Year	Total value when signed	\$29,800,000
Total value when signed	\$7,000,000	REMAINING SALARIES	
REMAINING SALARIES		2026	Age 29 \$9,400,000
2025	Age 28 \$7,000,000	2027	Age 30 \$10,000,000
ADDITIONAL CLAUSES & INCENTIVES		2028	Age 31 Team Opt. \$10,400,000
Promised Position / Role	Starting Lineup	ADDITIONAL CLAUSES & INCENTIVES	
		3rd year is a team option, with a \$2,000,000 buyout.	
		All-Star bonus \$90,000	

Minor League Contracts w/ major league options

- **January 25: 1B/OF Adam Duvall**

→ Duvall will almost certainly make the opening day roster as a short-side platoon bat against lefties. He followed up his 120 wRC+ season from 2023 with a disappointing 83 wRC+ with the Braves in 2024 and *could* be completely cooked. The case for adding him is that he can still play decent defense in the outfield corners and at first base and crushed left-handed pitching even in an overall down season.





ADAM DUVALL | #16

LF | Los Angeles Angels | "Duvy" | Bats: Right | Age 36 | 6' 1" - 220 lbs

YESTERDAY TODAY

PLAY at New York
Spring Training begins
vs Toronto - RHP K. Gausman

TOMORROW SAT. FEB. 22

vs Tampa Bay - RHP S. Baz

PROFILE

RATINGS

BATTING STATS

PITCHING STATS

FIELDING STATS

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BASEBALL CARDS

ACTIONS...


PERSONAL DETAILS

Age	36 years, 169 days
Date of Birth	September 4th , 1988
City of Birth	Louisville, KY
Nationality	American 
Position	Left Field
Bats / Throws	Right / Right
Team	Los Angeles Angels (MLB)
Salary	Minor League Contract
School	University of Louisville
Acquired	Minor Lg. FA Signing (01/25/2025)
Morale	Normal 😊
Expectation	Starting lineup
Major Service	8 Years, 146 Days
Twitter Handle	@aduvall123 

BASIC BATTING RATINGS

Contact	Current / Potential
45 / 45	<div><div></div></div>
Gap Power	
55 / 55	<div><div></div></div>
Power	
55 / 55	<div><div></div></div>
Eye	
45 / 45	<div><div></div></div>
Avoid K's	
45 / 45	<div><div></div></div>

SUMMARY

Overall	50
Potential	50
Scouting Accuracy	 Very High

OTHER BATTING RATINGS

Batted Ball Profile	Normal
Groundball Tendency	Extreme Pull
Flyball Tendency	Pull Hitter
Speed	40
Stealing Aggressiveness	35
Stealing Ability	60
Baserunning	50
Sacrifice Bunt	40
Bunt for Hit	40

POSITION RATINGS

First Base	50 / 65
Left Field	60
Center Field	40
Right Field	50

DEFENSIVE RATINGS


Outfield Range	55
Outfield Error	45
Outfield Arm	50

PERSONALITY

To call Duvall a perfectionist is an understatement.

- **January 26: SP Dane Dunning**

→ The *de facto* “7th starter” entering Spring (Eflin, T. Anderson, Detmers, J. Soriano, Canning, Silseth), Dunning will have an opportunity to earn the fifth starter’s spot with a strong Spring. The cost-cutting Rangers non-tendered him in the Spring when he was slated to earn somewhere between \$3M and \$4M in his second arb season. He posted the second-best K-BB% of his big league career in 2024 (25.8 K% vs. 11.1% BB%) but his home run rate spiked to a 1.7 per 9, a career-worst. He split time between Arlington and AAA Round Rock, leading to a predictable non-tender with the Rangers trying to get younger in their rotation. I’m betting on the home run rate regressing back to his career norms (1.1 per 9) and that he can sustain his K-BB gains from last season.



DANE DUNNING | #3

SP | Los Angeles Angels | Throws: Right | Age 30 | 6' 4" - 200 lbs

YESTERDAY

TODAY

PLAY at New York

Spring Training begins

TOMORROW

SAT. FEB. 22

vs Toronto - RHP K. Gausman

vs Tampa Bay - RHP S. Baz

PROFILE

RATINGS

BATTING STATS

PITCHING STATS

FIELDING STATS

REAL LIFE STATS

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BASEBALL CARDS

ACTIONS...

PERSONAL DETAILS

Age	30 years, 62 days
Date of Birth	December 20th , 1994
City of Birth	Jacksonville, FL
Nationality	American 🇺🇸
Position	Pitcher (Starter)
Bats / Throws	Right / Right
Team	Los Angeles Angels (MLB)
Salary	Minor League Contract
School	University of Florida
Acquired	Minor Lg. FA Signing (01/26/2025)
Morale	Normal 😊
Expectation	Starting rotation
Major Service	4 Years, 59 Days
Twitter Handle	@Ddunning33 🐦

BASIC PITCHING RATINGS

Stuff	Current / Potential
45 / 45	
Movement	
55 / 55	
Control	
50 / 50	
Slider	
50 / 50	
Changeup	
55 / 55	
Sinker	
55 / 55	
Cutter	
50 / 50	

SUMMARY

Overall	45
Potential	45
Scouting Accuracy	🔍 Very High

OTHER PITCHING RATINGS

GB/FB Tendency	Groundball Pitcher
Velocity	89-91 Mph
Arm Slot	Normal (3/4)
Pitcher Type	Groundballer

Projected Role in

MLB (MLB)

Current	Starter
Stamina	60
Hold Runners	45

POSITION RATINGS

Pitcher	65
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BATTING RATINGS

Contact	30 / 30
Power	30 / 30
Eye	30 / 30
Sacrifice Bunt	45

PERSONALITY

Dane is a good teammate who never misses a chance to golf.

- **February 19: UTIL Miles Mastrobuoni**

→ Ron Washington is going to absolutely *adore* this dude. Mastro was a late-round (14th) find by the Rays in 2016 from Nevada-Reno and was shipped to the Cubs in a late 2022 swap with the Rays in their customary 40-man roster crunch. He split his time in 2023 and 2024 between Wrigley and AAA Iowa and has two quite useful calling cards: elite base-running and defensive versatility. In the last two seasons, he's an exceptional 40-for-42 on stolen bases attempts. Mastro is also at least a 40 defender at every (non-catcher) defensive spot, though his primary infield position is second base (he also played 200 innings at 3B for the Cubs in 2023). At a minimum, he'll be a frequent pinch-runner whom Ron Washington can deploy with impunity late in games, but he also might start a game or two per week as a versatile piece who can move all over the field. Like Duvall and Dunning, he's almost certainly going to make the Opening Day roster.



MILES MASTROBUONI | #20

2B | Los Angeles Angels | Bats: Left | Age 29 | 5' 11" - 175 lbs | Salary: \$1,000,000

YESTERDAY

TODAY

TOMORROW

THU. MAR. 27

FRI. MAR. 28

No Game.

vs Chicago - LHP G. Crochet

PROFILE

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PITCHING STATS

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BASEBALL CARDS

ACTIONS...

PERSONAL DETAILS

Age

29 years, 145 days


Date of Birth

October 31st, 1995


City of Birth

Livermore, CA

Nationality

American 

Second Nation

Italian 

Position

Second Base

Bats / Throws

Left / Right

Team

Los Angeles Angels (MLB)

Salary

\$1,000,000

Signed through

2025(auto renew)

School

University of Nevada

Acquired

Minor Lg. FA Signing (02/22/2025)

Morale

Normal 😊

Expectation

Bench player

BASIC BATTING RATINGS

Current / Potential

55 / 55

Gap Power

45 / 45

Power

30 / 30

Eye

50 / 55

Avoid K's

55 / 55

SUMMARY

Overall

45

Potential

45

Scouting Accuracy

Very High

OTHER BATTING RATINGS

Batted Ball Profile

Groundball Hitter

Groundball Tendency

Spray Hitter

Flyball Tendency

Spray Hitter

Speed

70

Stealing Aggressiveness

55

Stealing Ability

70

Baserunning

55

Sacrifice Bunt

55

Bunt for Hit

55

POSITION RATINGS

Second Base

55

Third Base

45 / 50

Shortstop

45

Left Field

55 / 60

Center Field

40

Right Field

50 / 55

DEFENSIVE RATINGS

Infield Range

55

Infield Error

60

Infield Arm

50

Turn DP

55


PERSONALITY

A regular Joe.

Development Lab Results

- **O’Hoppe** (6.0% BB rate) and **Neto** (4.8%) were both in need of refinement in the OBP/eye department. Fortunately, their offseason work appears to have paid dividends. More in the season preview post, but O’Hoppe crushed the offseason and appears primed in his age-25 season to take “the leap” into the upper echelon of catchers in the sport. We also had both guys work on their defense towards the end of the offseason, the feedback from the trainers was, “dont’ bother. They’re as good as they’re going to get defensively.” Fine.
- **Schanuel** was known more in college and in the run-up to the Draft as a hit-over-power first baseman, which is something of an anomaly in modern baseball. Given the speed with which the Angels rushed him to the big leagues, it was unsurprising that he was still trying to tap into some of his in-game power last year in his first full season in the big leagues. Despite sub-standard power (.133), he still finished with an above-average wRC+ (112). After an offseason of bat speed training, he made major gains (45 → 55 power) and now has league-average power for a first baseman along with usual elite eye (65/70) and contact rates (60/65).
- I made a poor decision sending **Braden Montgomery** on quality of contact improvements. What he really needs is refinement to his two-strike approach. The hell was I doing? A wasted spot in our precious Dev Lab.
- The scouting group continues to think **Nelson Rada** will grow into moderate power (current 30; potential 40) but perhaps he’s still too young to get there, even with an offseason of bat speed training. Fortunately, there’s still no rush here, as he’s not 40-man eligible until next offseason and will return to Double A in 2025.

●	!	Braden Montgomery Quality of Contact Program Concluded: No Improvement	02/18/2025
●	!	Nelson Rada Quality of Contact Program Concluded: No Improvement	02/18/2025
●	!	Chase Silseth Increase Pitch Movement Program Concluded: No Improvement	02/18/2025
●	!	Logan O'Hoppe Plate Discipline Program Concluded: Successful	02/18/2025
●	!	Zach Neto Plate Discipline Program Concluded: Successful	02/18/2025
●	!	Nolan Schanuel Generate Batspeed Program Concluded: Successful	02/18/2025



ZACH NETO | #9

SS | Los Angeles Angels | Bats: Right | Age 24 | 6' 0" - 180 lbs | Salary: \$740,000

YESTERDAY

TODAY

TOMORROW

THU. MAR. 27

FRI. MAR. 28

No Game.

vs Chicago - LHP G. Crochet

PROFILE

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BASEBALL CARDS

ACTIONS...

PERSONAL DETAILS

Age

24 years, 53 days

Date of Birth

January 31st , 2001

City of Birth

Miami, FL

Nationality

American

Position

Shortstop

Bats / Throws

Right / Right

Team

Los Angeles Angels (MLB)

Salary

\$740,000

Signed through

2025 (poss. arb.)

School

Campbell University

Nat. Popularity

Fair

Morale

Normal

Expectation

Starting lineup

Major Service

2 Years, 3 Days

BASIC BATTING RATINGS

Contact

Current / Potential

55 / 55

Gap Power

55 / 55

Power

55 / 55

Eye

50 / 55

Avoid K's

50 / 50

SUMMARY

Overall

55

Potential

55

Scouting Accuracy

Very High

OTHER BATTING RATINGS

Batted Ball Profile

Normal

Groundball Tendency

Spray Hitter

Flyball Tendency

Spray Hitter

Speed

25

Stealing Aggressiveness

40

Stealing Ability

70

Baserunning

50

Sacrifice Bunt

55

Bunt for Hit

45

POSITION RATINGS

Second Base

65

Third Base

40 / 60

Shortstop

55

DEFENSIVE RATINGS

Infield Range

60

Infield Error

60

Infield Arm


60

Turn DP

60

PERSONALITY

Stands in a corner in a crowded bar.



NOLAN SCHANUEL | #18

1B | Los Angeles Angels | Bats: Left | Age 23 | 6' 4" - 215 lbs | Salary: \$740,000

YESTERDAY

TODAY

TOMORROW

THU. MAR. 27

FRI. MAR. 28

No Game.

vs Chicago - LHP G. Crochet

PROFILE

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BASEBALL CARDS

ACTIONS...

PERSONAL DETAILS

Age

23 years, 39 days

Date of Birth

February 14th , 2002

City of Birth

Boynton Beach, FL

Nationality

American

Position

First Base

Bats / Throws

Left / Right

Team

Los Angeles Angels (MLB)

Salary

\$740,000

Signed through

2025 (minimum)

School

Florida Atlantic University

Nat. Popularity

Well Known

Morale

Good

Expectation

Starting lineup

Major Service

1 Year, 50 Days

BASIC BATTING RATINGS

Contact

Current / Potential

55 / 60

Gap Power

45 / 50

Power

55 / 55

Eye

65 / 70

Avoid K's

60 / 60

SUMMARY

Overall

60

Potential

65

Scouting Accuracy

Very High

OTHER BATTING RATINGS

Batted Ball Profile

Normal

Groundball Tendency

Extreme Pull

Flyball Tendency

Pull Hitter

Speed

45

Stealing Aggressiveness

30

Stealing Ability

25

Baserunning

50

Sacrifice Bunt

50

Bunt for Hit

35

POSITION RATINGS

First Base

60

Left Field

25 / 45

Right Field

25 / 40

DEFENSIVE RATINGS

Infield Range

40

Infield Error

40

Infield Arm

45

Turn DP

30

PERSONALITY

Can be intimidating, with his habitual scowl.

2025 Spring Training NRI's

- 1B/OF Adam Duvall
- LF/RF Braden Montgomery
- CF Nelson Rada
- UTIL Miles Mastrobuoini
- SP Dane Dunning
- SP Caden Dana
- SP Drew Beam

Next Up: 2025 Roster Preview

